

*Employee
Resident of
New Milford*

From: Vincent G. Delaney MA CCDP (Retired)
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New Milford, CT 06776

To: Senate Planning & Development Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Re: Senate Bill 203 to amend CSG 8-3c

Honorable Committee Members,

I would like to express my concerns and voice my objection to the passing of Senate Bill 203. I have recently retired as a Vice President of a Connecticut Non-Profit and have decades of experience working directly with the population on which this bill will have a negative effect.

Many years ago the decision was made to close mental health institutions and integrate those affected by mental health issues into the community. Bill 203 will burden the agencies charged with caring for these clients and assisting them in the integration process with costly expenses and in many cases force them to close existing facilities. In order to properly assist clients, a staffing level is required to provide all the services required by the General Statutes, which might increase the number of automobiles parked at a residence. However this increased staffing also helps in providing a safe environment for the clients and neighborhood.

I have lived in New Milford for 31 years where there are approximately 6 Community Residences. However, more specifically I have had the pleasure of meeting the 4 clients who live at 1 Red Fox Lane. The clients in this facility do have mental health issues which are accompanied with medical complications. The youngest in the facility is 58, with the others being over 60 years old. These men deserve the better quality of life they are receiving in their senior years as a part of the community they now call home.

Please do not pass Bill 203, and allow CGS 8-3c stand as written un-amended.

Respectfully,
Vincent G. Delaney
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